BRIEF VIEW

OF

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction,

As it is at this Day practised in

ENGLAND.

Addressed to

Sir NATHANIEL CURZON *Bart.*

AND

The rest of the Gentlemen of the Committee appointed by Parliament, for inquiring into the Abuses and Corruptions of ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS and Commissions.

LONDON:

Printed for J. PEELE, at *Lock's*-Head in *Amen-Corner*. M.DCC.XXXII.

(Price Six-pence.)

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BRITAN
NICVM

TO

Sir NATHANIEL CURZON *Bar.*

AND

The reſt of the Gentlemen of the Committee appointed by Parliament, for enquiring into the Abuſes and Corruptions of Eccleſiaſtical Courts *and* Juriſdictions.

GENTLEMEN,

AS the *Grand Inqueſt* of the Kingdom of *Great-Britain*, have devolved upon you the *Truſt* of enquiring into the Abuſes and Corruptions of *Eccleſiaſtical Courts* and *Juriſdictions*, give me leave briefly, and in *Miniature*, to repreſent to your View, a contracted *Scheme*

of thoſe Courts and *Juriſdictions* in *England*; whereby it will appear what an incredible Sum is yearly drained and ſqueezed out of the People's *Purſes* and *Eſtates* by ſuch Eccleſiaſtical *Officers* and ſpiritual *Perſons*, who make *Gain* their only *Godlineſs*.

But as my Intent here is not to intermeddle with their *Doctrines* of *Faith*, or Practices in *Religion*, I ſhall only at preſent enquire, whether a great Cauſe of the impoveriſhing of this Nation, is not occaſioned by an *over-numerous Body of Eccleſiaſticks* among us, and by the Exactions, Extortions, and Oppreſſions, of what are called *Spiritual Courts* and *Juriſdictions*.

In order to this *Inquiry*, I beg leave to recite a *Maxim* or Obſervation of the Lord *Verulam*, (which will be found to contain an eternal Truth) viz. *That a ſmaller Number who ſpend more and earn leſs, do ſooner wear out an Eſtate, than a greater number that live lower* (meaner) *and gather more; ſo it*

it is (says he) *with an overgrown* (i. e. a numerous and luxuriant) *Clergy*. For they consume the Labours of *others*, *but bring in nothing to the Stock.*

And that the *Stock* and Produce of the *English Nation*, is in a great measure swallowed up and devoured by the numerous Body of our *Ecclesiasticks*, and their *Jurisdictions*, *Courts*, and *Officers*, will I believe evidently appear, if you consider the following Observables, respecting those Persons, and their Courts and Jurisdictions.

I. We have here in *England* two Provincial Archbishops, *Canterbury*, and *York*; each of which has his princely Retinue for the Support of his Temporal Grandeur, as well as a numerous Body of Spiritual Officers, for the Exercise and Execution of his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Authority. *Archbishops.* *Officers.*

In the number of their Temporal Retinue, we may reckon their Stewards and Bailiffs of Lordships, Manors, Lands, *Temporal.*

Lands, *&c.* Stewards of their Houſholds, Gentlemen-Uſhers, Uſhers of their Halls, Comptrollers, Yeomen of their Horſe, Secretaries, Houſe-keepers, Purveyors, Butlers, Cooks, *&c.*

Spiritual. And among the latter, their Suffragans, Vicars-general, Guardians of Spiritualities, Chancellors, Officials, Commiſſaries, Deans, Arch-deacons, Regiſters, Deputy-Regiſters, Advocates, Apparitors, Projectors, *cum multis aliis.*

Courts. And as the Officers and Attendants of theſe Archbiſhops are of two kinds, ſo are their Courts, *viz.*

Temporal. 1. *Courts Temporal,* as *Courts Leet,* Courts Baron, Cuſtomary Courts, Courts of Franchiſes and Privileges, Courts of Piepowder, (for ſome of them keep Fairs and Markets) and other like Courts.

Spiritual. 2. *Courts Spiritual,* as the Court of Arches (to *Canterbury*) Prerogative Courts, Courts of Delegates, Conſiſtory Courts, or Courts of Audience,

Courts

Courts of Faculties for granting Licences and Diſpenſations (with divers others.)

II. Next, as to Biſhops (who in moſt things imitate Archbiſhops) we may obſerve, (2.) *Biſhops.*

1. That within *England* we have twenty-four Dioceſan Biſhops.

2. That theſe have alſo their ſeveral Trains of Domeſtick Officers, Servants, and Attendants, both Temporal and Spiritual. *Officers.*

But as I ſhall not at preſent enter into a Diſquiſition of their Eſtates, in Lordſhips, Manors, Lands, Palaces, Gardens, *&c.* ſo I ſhall here wave all Inquiry into the State of their *Temporal Revenues*; my preſent Intention being chiefly to remark on their Eccleſiaſtical or Spiritual Courts and Juriſdictions. Wherein I obſerve, That our twenty-four Biſhops have to aſſiſt them in the Exerciſe and Execution of their Spiritual Juriſdiction, the following Officers, *viz.*

24 Suffragans, if not double the number, with their Attendants.

26 Chancellors, with their Attendants,

26 Regiſters, with their Attendants.

26 Deputy Regiſters, with their Clerks, *&c.*

26 Gentlemen Apparitors.

52, or more, Proctors; and

150, or more, Common Apparitors.

With many other Officers, Notaries, Clerks, and Attendants.

Note, Bath *and* Wells, *as well as* Litchfield *and* Coventry, *have their diſtinct Courts*, i. e. *one in each Diviſion of thoſe Dioceſes.*

(3.) *Arch-Deacons.*

There are alſo under theſe Archbiſhops and Biſhops, at leaſt,

60 Arch-Deaconries. And to theſe belong,

60 Arch-Deacons Courts; which conſiſt of

60 Commiſſaries or Judges of thoſe Courts; as alſo

60

60 or more Surrogates, or Deputy Commissaries.

60 Registers, with their Deputies, Scribes, and Clerks.

120 Proctors (*i.e.* if we allow but two to each Court.)

200 or more Apparitors, with a Multitude of Promoters and Informers; *cum aliis Officiariis.*

See of the Exercise of their Jurisdiction hereafter.

But further, besides the before mentioned Officers, we may observe another, who in their Ecclesiastical Oeconomy is called a *Dean*, in Latin *Decanus*. For that 'tis said in his first Institution he was to preside over ten Parishes, which was therefore called a Deanery. (4.) *Deans.*

But *Deans* are now with us distinguished into four or five kinds, *viz.* *Of five kinds.*

1. *Cathedral Deans*; these, with their respective Chapters, have in many things a concurrent Jurisdiction with the Bishop of the Diocese. And some Authorities they have which are independent of him. The number of 1. *Cathedral.*

this kind of Deans in *England* and *Wales* is twenty-four. For at St. *Davids* and *Landaff* they have no Cathedral Deans, the Office of Dean being there exerciſed by the Biſhops themſelves.

2. *Collegiate.* 2. *Collegiate Deans*, ſome whereof have all the Concomitants and Attendants of a *Cathedral Dean*, except that of having a Biſhop at their Head; ſuch a Dean is that of *Weſtminſter* College, *&c.*

3. *Exempt.* 3. *Exempt Deans*, i. e. ſuch as are exempt from Epiſcopal Juriſdiction, as having an independent Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction within their own particular Precincts; ſuch a Dean is that of *Battle* in *Suſſex*, who is, or may be, inveſted in his Deanry by the King's Letters Patents, and needs no Inſtitution or Induction by the Biſhop or Arch-Deacon. *Quære*, of the Dean or Provoſt of *Eaton* College, if an Exempt, *&c.*

4. *Non-Exempt.* 4. *Non-Exempt Deans*, i. e. ſuch as are not ſo exempt as aforeſaid. Theſe

are generally Donatives in the Archbishops, and consequently have a peculiar Jurisdiction derived from them; such are the Deans of the Arches (and *St. Martin le Grand*) in *London*; the Dean of *Bocking* in *Essex*, with some others under the Archbishop of *Canterbury*: and I have heard of the like under the Archbishop of *York*, but can at present give no certain Account of them.

5. *Rural Deans*; these originally had no judicial Power, being only substituted by the Bishop to assist him in granting Administrations and Probates of Wills. But I am informed, that at this Day divers of those Deans have arrogated to themselves a *Species of Jurisdiction*. Though 'tis said, their chief Business is only to feast the Clergy at Visitations, for which they have a Licence to raise Contributions within their Deanries.——See *Nelson's Rights of the Clergy*, 252, 253, &c. 5. *Deans Rural.*

The Cathedratic Oeconomy.

And seeing we have mentioned Cathedral Deans, I shall here beg leave to give a *Specimen* of the several Parts or Members whereof the Cathedratic Choir or Body is usually composed; which, taking our Pattern from that at St. *Paul's*, stands thus:

1 *Bishop*, 1 *Dean*, 1 *Subdean*, 1 *Præcentor*, 1 *Chancellor*, who has under him divers Scribes, Clerks and Officers; 1 *Treasurer*, who has an Officer call'd a *Sacrist* or *Sacristan* for a Coadjutor, and this *Sacrist* has 3 or 4 Attendants call'd *Viergers*. There are also 5 Archdeacons, 30 Prebendaries, 12 Petty Canons, 6 or 8 Vicars Choral, and about 24 Choristers and Singing-Boys, besides other Officers and Attendants: The whole Number of Officers and Attendants in this and other Cathedrals amounting to about 150, and in some, as I am inform'd, to near 200.

And if any Person is desirous to know the several Procurations, Synodals, Pensions, Payments and Perquisites appropriated

priated to each of the above mention'd Officers within the Dioceſe of *London*; let him peruſe Mr. *Newcourt's Repertorium Canonicum*, Vol. I. fol. 58, 102, *&c.* And by an Account taken from the ſecond Volume of that Book, I find that in the ſingle County of *Eſſex*, there is yearly paid to the Biſhop and Arch-Deacons, in Procurations, Penſions, and Synodals only, about 500 *l.* *per annum.*

Twenty thouſand Eccleſiaſtical Officers and Attendants in England, (*beſides preaching* Miniſters) *which ſqueeze from the People* 800,000 *l.* per annum.

And upon the whole Account, which may eaſily be deduced from the foregoing *View* and *Specimen*, I think it will evidently appear, That the *Number* of ſpiritual Officers and Attendants belonging to Archbiſhops, Biſhops, Archdeacons, and Cathedral Deans only, will amount to more than 20,000 Perſons, beſides preaching Miniſters. And that theſe receive for their Maintenance one with another, at leaſt forty Pounds a Man yearly, which will amount to at leaſt, *Eight hundred thouſand Pounds per annum.* A ſurprizing Sum! And when

when we conſider that many of thoſe Officers, inſtead of forty Pounds *per annum*, do make two, three, or four Hundred Pounds *per annum*, by their Eccleſiaſtical Employments, I conceive the above Computation may well be extended to Ten hundred thouſand Pounds *per annum*: All which is extorted and ſqueezed out of the Peoples Purſes, merely to ſupport Eccleſiaſtical Power and Juriſdiction.

Biſhops Count Palatines.

We may here further obſerve, that beſides the Spiritual Juriſdiction abovementioned, ſome of our Biſhops (as *Durham*, *Ely*, &c.) have a Palatine Juriſdiction annexed to their Biſhopricks, which includes in itſelf a double Species of Sovereign Power, (*i.e.* Temporal and Spiritual) within the Limits of their reſpective Juriſdictions. And accordingly, in purſuance, and for the more effectual Execution of this *Partie per Pale* Sovereign Power, they have their ſupreme Courts both Temporal and Spiritual, from whence no Appeal lies

lies but to the Biſhop himſelf. He (the Biſhop) being there (in *Durham*) ſaid to be ſupreme Lord and Head, both in Spirituals and Temporals; inſomuch as the Practicers in thoſe Courts are ſaid to have a Maxim, *Quod Brevia Domini Regis non currunt in Provincia Dunelmenſi, quia Epiſcopus ibidem facit Vicecomitem.* It being well known that the Biſhop there, by virtue of his own Letters Patent and Grants, doth conſtitute all Judges, Sheriffs, Officers, *&c.* Who by virtue of ſuch Grants do (excluſive of the King and his Royal Prerogative) judge and determine of the Lives, Liberties, and Properties of ſuch of the King's Subjects as happen to live or reſide within the Limits of that Juriſdiction. *A Note for Durham.*

'Tis alſo under Pretence of this *double-bodied* Juriſdiction, that in that Diocеſe of *Durham* they uſually extort vaſt Sums of Money yearly, from ſuch as they there call the *Biſhop's Subjects*; and by a peculiar Artifice (which will always *Double-bodied Juriſdiction.*

always be practiſed where both the Temporal and Spiritual Authority concur in the ſame Perſon) the Practiſers in both thoſe Courts (*i. e.* the Proctors and the Attorneys) do ſo play the Game into each other's hands, that the poor Client is often forced to bear the Rapines and Plunderings of both *Juriſdictions*. For let the Nature of the Cauſe be either Spiritual or Temporal, the Temporal as well as the Spiritual Courts are frequently employed to ſupport the Judgments of either. An *Outlawry* there being the natural Conſequence of an Excommunication, as an Excommunication generally follows that of an Outlawry; and by this Method is the *Summum Jus* of Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction there perfected.

Note. Beſides which, (if I am rightly informed) this Principality of *Durham* claims a Privilege or Prerogative of not being bound by Acts of Parliament, except expreſſly named therein: And that under this Pretext, they ſay they are not bound by the late Act for

for *Regulating, Regiſtring, and Enrolling Attorneys, &c.* Whether this be ſo or not, will deſerve your Enquiry. But this I know, that in the printed Liſts of ſworn Attorneys publiſhed by Authority, although all other inferior Juriſdictions, as *Cheſter, Lancaſter*, the *Cinque Ports, &c.* ſent up Liſts of their Attorneys, and the ſame are accordingly printed; yet I find no Account given of the Attorneys practiſing in any of the Courts at *Durham*. It ſeems they ſhelter themſelves under the Authority of the Biſhop, and conſequently bid Defiance to the Act of Parliament.

Nor is it any Excuſe for theſe Palatine Attorneys, to ſay that their Names are included in the general Liſts of Attorneys of the *King's-Bench* or *Common-Pleas*. For whether that be ſo or not, does no where appear on thoſe Liſts. And we know, to be an Attorney of an inferior Juriſdiction, is incompatible with the Office of an At- *Note.*

torney of the ſuperior Courts at *Weſtminſter*. For in thoſe inferior Courts the Attorney is uſually ſworn on his Admiſſion, not to plead any foreign Plea, *i. e.* ſuch a Plea as deprives or denies the Juriſdiction of thoſe inferior Courts. So that in effect, all the Attorneys of thoſe Courts are ſworn not to permit any Cauſe that ariſes within their Juriſdiction, to be determined by any other Judges but their own.

Note. I may hereto add one other Obſervable touching the Biſhoprick of *Durham:* That whatever Temporal Privileges or Prerogatives were formerly annexed to that Biſhoprick, were, and the very Foundation of its being made a County Palatine, was, by reaſon of the Vicinity of our once Enemies the *Scots*, which neceſſitated the conſtituting of Officers like thoſe of the old *Romans*, called *Comites Limitanei*, for repelling the Incurſions of Enemies. But as the *Engliſh* and *Scots* are now become

Ceſſante Cauſâ, ceſſatur Effectus.

become united Brethren, there can be no tolerable Reaſon rendred for indulging this Biſhoprick with thoſe intolerable Privileges and Prerogatives it now claims.

I have now by me a moſt moving and lamentable Account (contained in above ſixty Letters) ſent me by Mr. *John Tempeſt* of *Old Durham*, (formerly a Member of your Houſe) complaining of the moſt barbarous and tyrannic Proceedings of the Spiritual and Temporal Courts there, againſt his Perſon, Eſtate, and Property, that ever was known to have been practiſed in any Court of Law or Juſtice whatever. And this (as he ſays) chiefly promoted and carried on by a Confederacy between the Biſhop's Chancellor and Sheriff, who by their Under-Officers and Agents, have illegally ſeized upon whatever of his Property they can lay their hands on, on Pretence of an Outlawry or Excommunication, of which he had no Notice till the Seizure actually made. And that upon Application to his So-

vereign, the Biſhop, for Redreſs, he has been denied all manner of Relief; and therefore intreats me to repreſent his Caſe to you the Parliament's Committee, which I am now preparing to that End.

But before I trouble you with that particular Caſe, I beg leave to add a few other general Obſervations, touching the Artifices and Practices of *Biſhops, &c.* in driving on their Eccleſiaſtical Trade of getting Money. Which Artifices and Practices, I ſhall endeavour to range unde theſe ten *general Heads*, (excluſive of ſome Excentricities) *viz.*

1. By their Fees for ordaining Prieſts and Deacons, which general Ordinations being at four Times in the Year, may well be computed at about 100 *l.* each Time. And thus the whole 26 Biſhops and Archbiſhops, may make in the whole about 10,400 *l. per annum.*

2. By Inſtitutions and Inductions to vacant Benefices, for every one of which they have at leaſt three Pounds.

And

And there being computed in *England* 9285 Pariſhes, this at the ordinary rate of one in a Pariſh, comes to 27,855 *l.*

Note, Some Pariſhes conſiſt of divers Benefices, and others have divers Chapelries, which are of the ſame Nature, and require Inſtitution and Induction as well as other Benefices. The ſingle Pariſh of *Halliſax* in *Yorkſhire*, has ten or 12 ſuch Chapelries. Nor are the Inſtitutions to Arch-Deaconries, Deanries, Prebendaries, Sine-Cures, *&c.* here included; ſo that this Head of Inſtitutions and Inductions, is of much greater Benefit to Biſhops than is generally eſtimated.

3. For making Rural Deans, and for taking their Oaths, *&c.* The Biſhops uſually receive of every Rural Dean ſo ſworn, the yearly Sum of 8 *s.* 6 *d.* as I am informed. And this may hint to us the Reaſon why the late Queen *Anne*, no doubt on the Advice or Importunity of ſome Biſhops, ſent her Letter dated 29 *Jan.* 1710, to the then Convo-

Convocation, for augmenting the number of Rural Deans, *&c.* See *Nelſon's Rights of the Clergy*, 252.

4. By granting Viſitation Licences to Beneficed Miniſters to Preach in their *own Cures*; for although they are ordained, inſtituted, and inducted before, and by the Canons are ſtrictly enjoined to preach the Goſpel; yet this muſt not be done, till ſuch a Viſitation Licence, or the Biſhop's Approbation, be obtained: Which Licence, on every Epiſcopal Viſitation, coſts every ſuch beneficed Miniſter 10*s.* And this for the ſaid 9285 Pariſhes, or rather above 10,000 Benefices in *England*, comes to 5000*l. per annum.*

Note.

Note, when the Biſhop does not viſit, the Arch-Deacon does, and that twice yearly; ſo that there never fails a Viſitation in order to pick up the Pence. *Vide poſt*, Arch-Deacons Juriſdiction.

5. By

5. By granting ſeveral other ſpecial kinds of Licences, whereof nine or ten are ſufficiently remarkable, *viz.*

1. Licences to unbeneficed Curates and Deacons to preach, *&c.*

2. Licences to Schoolmaſters and Schoolmiſtreſſes to teach, *&c.*

3. Licences to Pariſh-Clerks to ſing, *&c.*

4. Licences to Pariſhioners to repair, enlarge, or amend their Church.

5. Licences to Church-Wardens and Overſeers in divers Caſes.

6. Licences to Phyſicians to practiſe Phyſick.

7. Licences to Midwives to practice their Profeſſion, and to baptize.

8. Licences to Notaries publick to practice Knavery.

9. Licences to marry, and commit Adultery, to have two Wives, *&c.*

And I believe on Enquiry, ſome other kinds of *Biſhops Licences* may be diſcovered, as perhaps *Licences* to *communicate*

municate with the Church of *Rome*; for I have heard ſome Diſcourſes of that kind.

But to proceed,

6. The Biſhops alſo receive very conſiderable Profits or Perquiſites by conſecrating of Churches and Church-yards; for though nothing be due of Right, yet 'tis well known what is voluntarily given into the hands of a Biſhop's Servant for his Maſter's Uſe, can be no Simony or Corruption in the Biſhop. This may be learned from the Example of a preſent Right Reverend and ever memorable Prelate.

7. By granting Abſolutions and Commutations for Penances, wherein there is generally a Regard had to the Ability of the Sinner. For if he be rich, a good round Sum is expected to free him from that Chain of the Devil called Excommunication; but if the Wretch be poor, he is delivered to the

D——l of course; and though he performs his Penance both in Body and Soul, yet neither can be delivered, either from Hell or the Ecclesiastical Court, 'till he has paid his Fees.

8. They also receive vast Sums of Money by granting Probates of Wills, and Letters of Administration. And by an usurped Right (for so in fact this Jurisdiction is) they are become in a great measure the Disposers and Dispensers of dead Men's Wills; and though now therein providentially restrained in some things by the Act of Distributions, yet still possessed of too much Power to be for the Subjects Benefit.

9. By framing new Oaths and Articles against their Visitations, and compelling Church-wardens to swear to present according to such new invented Articles; whereby divers Prosecu-

tions of innocent Perſons have been carried on in the Eccleſiaſtical Courts.

'Tis true, this Practice is now almoſt *ex uſu*, but inſtead thereof we have almoſt yearly new Sets of *Paſtoral Charges*, which, how little Benefit ſoever they bring, either to the Flock or the Bookſeller, yet have proved gainful to ſome of their Lordſhips.

10. By Procurations, Synodals, and other Viſitatorial Payments and Penſions. For in the Biſhop's Viſitation two things are obſervable:

1. The Church-wardens and Chapel-wardens of every Pariſh and Chapelry within the Dioceſe, are called over, and there receive a Book of Articles to preſent by, for which they generally pay 2 *s.* or 2 *s.* 6 *d.* and if any of them are abſent, they are there cited or ſummoned by Proclamation, to appear in the Biſhop's next *Conſiſtorial Court with Coſts.*

Note,

Note, Theſe Church-wardens and Chapel-wardens do pay at every Biſhop's Viſitation for ſuch a Book of Articles, though the very ſame they had before. They alſo pay the Biſhop's Clerk for writing their Preſentments, (though many of them do it themſelves) 2 *s.* 6 *d.* which in 9285 Pariſhes comes to 1058 *l.* to which add for the Book of Articles, and it doubles the Sum.

2. All the Miniſters within the Dioceſe are obliged to attend the Biſhop's Viſitation, where they are to pay about 1 *s.* 8 *d.* or more, merely for producing to the Biſhop's Regiſter their Licences to preach, though ſuch Licences have been ſo produced and allowed never ſo often before. After which, they pay to the Biſhop, or to his Uſe, the uſual Sum for *Procurations* and *Synodals*; as alſo 8 *d.* claimed by the Gentleman Apparitor, to whom moſt pay 1 *s.* This Payment ſeems to be in favour of the Biſhop's *Man*, in order to obtain that

of the Maſter. There is alſo a Suit and Service expected at this Court from all, even the pooreſt unbeneficed Curate or Clerk within the Dioceſe. But I ſuppoſe theſe are ſpared in point of Money, out of Charity, or - - - -

A Note for York.

One thing more is obſervable with reſpect to the Province of *York*, *viz.* that when any Archbiſhop is firſt Inſtalled or Enthroned at *York*, all the Parſons and Vicars within his Juriſdiction, though never ſo poor, and their Family-Charge never ſo great, are obliged to give him the Tenth of their Eccleſiaſtical Livings, as a Benevolence, in order to aſſiſt the poor Archbiſhop to ſettle himſelf in that See; which they ſay uſually amounts to ſeven or eight thouſand Pounds, (a ſweet Morſel of Eccleſiaſtical Food!) And 'tis ſaid, that if any, even the meaneſt Vicar, whoſe Children want Bread, does through Poverty omit this cuſtomary Payment, he muſt certainly expect to be ſeverely whipp'd

whipp'd for the Offence, in their mercileſs Spiritual Court, 'till they have flay'd him to the very Bones.

Beſides which, in ſome Dioceſes, as *London*, *&c.* there is a Duty paid called the Biſhop's Penſion, *i. e.* 10 *l.* for every Arch-Deaconry, and proportionably for other Dignities and peculiar Juriſdictions, as may be ſeen in *Newcourt's Repertorium Canonicum*, Vol. I. & II.

Of the Arch-Deacon's Juriſdiction.

Next to Epiſcopal Juriſdiction is to be conſidered that of the *Arch-Deacons*, whoſe number I have before limited to ſixty, but find on a farther Scrutiny they may be enlarged to ſeventy, or more; for the Dioceſe of *London* alone has five, and other Dioceſes proportionable.

Theſe Arch-Deacons have their Viſitations twice yearly, *viz.* at *Michaelmas* and *Eaſter*, both which afford them plentiful Harveſts, in their Collections of Procurations, Synodals, and other profitable Perquiſites. For,

1. At

Synodals. 1. At their *Easter* Visitations, the Ministers within their respective Districts pay them Synodals, which they denominate their *Paschal Rents*, taking of each Parson six or seven Shillings, some more, some less; for these Payments are not all alike, but I suppose raised or lessened according to the Value of the Benefice; but none must come empty-handed.

Procurations. 2. At their *Michaelmas* Visitations the same Ministers pay their *Procurations*, some seven or eight, some ten or twelve Shillings, some more, some less. But it is judged that on a moderate Computation, the Arch-Deacons of *England* do yearly collect for Procurations only, six or seven thousand Pounds.

Deans, &c. The next Jurisdiction to be considered, is that of Deans and their Chapters. But having already mentioned the several kinds of Deans, and the manner of exercising their Jurisdictions, I shall not

not at preſent plunge any further into this *bottomleſs Barathron* of *Eccleſiaſtical* Officers, and their Rapines: but beg leave to conclude with the Words of a late eminent Prelate of the Church of *England, viz.* Dr. *G. Burnet*, Biſhop of *Sarum*, who in a familiar Diſcourſe with me on this very Subject, freely declared, *That the Canon Law and Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction were originally derived from Hell; and that thither it ought to be ſent again*; and obſerving me to be ſomewhat ſtartled at his Words, he continued thus; *A greater than I, even an Archbiſhop* (naming *Grindal*) *was alſo of this Opinion*: To which I only add,

Heu! heu! hæc è ſulphureo fonte Eccleſiaſticorum exurgunt! Vide Mat. Paris, p. 542. Col. 2.

Theſe Obſervations, I humbly ſubmit to your juſt and equitable Inquiry, and am (with all due Reſpect)

Your moſt obedient Servant,

W. BOHUN.

W. DUNUM.